

For Immediate Release

IDOC Deputy Commissioner Heads to Afghanistan with the National Guard

Camp Atterbury, Indiana (December 2, 2009) – On Monday, November 30, 2009, Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Deputy Commissioner of Operations Michael Osburn gathered with his Indiana National Guard unit for a ceremony to recognize the unit's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

Osburn, a Colonel with the unit, has led a 12-month training period for his 2-19th Agribusiness Deployment Team (ADT) that will deploy to Afghanistan within the next several weeks. Their mission is to promote sustainable farming practices in Afghanistan using civilian-acquired skills. This means engaging with local farmers and helping them with their many challenges, including water and infrastructure issues. The 2-19 ADT is one of 12 such teams in country.



Colonel Osburn (second from left), receives an American flag from General Umbarger (right).

34 of 90 Indiana counties were represented on the 64-member team. Colonel Osburn spoke at the ceremony and praised the hard work and dedication of the team.

In his remarks, Indiana National Guard General Martin Umbarger specifically noted the contribution of the many IDOC employees who have served in the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres. He called the mission an example of the projection of “soft” power, which he believes will help win the war.

Members of the IDOC's executive staff attended the ceremony to wish Colonel Osburn well. Hundreds of service members, family, and friends also attended.



Kevin Davis (middle) receives the award from the Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve.

Also, last week, IDOC employee Kevin Davis received the Employer Appreciation Award from the Indiana Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve. The IDOC as an agency recently received the Pro Patria award from the Indiana Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve.

“The Agency cherishes our connections to the armed forces and fully supports our employees who serve. We wish all of our soldiers well as they fight for our country,” said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss.

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Media Contact:

Douglas S. Garrison
Chief Communications Officer
Phone: (317) 232-5780
dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov